

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

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**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

03-0015

DATE: April 28, 2003 - **Corrected**

TO: All Individuals and Groups Interested in Special Education Credentialing of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing

FROM: Dr. Sam W. Swofford
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Clarification of the Education Specialist Credentials Requirements

Introduction and Rationale

The current Education Specialist Credential Program Standards were implemented in 1997. Since that time a number of other credential requirements and legislative actions have taken place that are influencing the Education Specialist Credential. The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) recognizes the pending reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) as well as the implementation of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) will likely influence the structure of the Education Specialist Credentials in the future. In the meantime, the Commission would like to address specific issues, which are intended to provide more flexibility in Special Education teacher preparation programs.

Education Specialist: Preliminary Level I:**Technology Requirements**

Candidates enrolled in teacher preparation who will complete both the Education Specialist Credential and a Multiple or Single Subject Credential are required to complete only one technology course to fulfill the technology requirement. The technology course should include content related to teaching both general and specialized populations with a special focus on assistive technology.

General Education Fieldwork

The Education Specialist Credential requires a non-special education fieldwork component. The intent is for special education candidates to have experience in the

general education classroom. Given the "Factors to Consider" for Standard 21 of the *Standards of Quality and Effectiveness for Education Specialist Credential Programs (Including University Internship Options) and Clinical Rehabilitative Services Credential Programs*, this general education experience should include a directed field experience. Although it is the responsibility of the teacher training program to assess how much time an Education Specialist Credential Program candidate needs in the general education classroom to ensure the candidate has "sufficient knowledge of subject matter that is the core of the California public school curriculum" (Education Code Section 44265), the Commission suggests this experience be no more than four weeks. Should this require a major change in your program, please submit a letter outlining your revised program to:

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Early Childhood Directed Teaching Placements

Candidates in the Early Childhood Special Education teacher preparation programs often have difficulty finding a directed teaching placement in public education. As long as the placement in question is on the California Department of Education's approved public or non public school list, or is an approved vendor of Regional Centers and has an Early Childhood credentialed teacher, the site may be used for a directed teaching placement.

Education Specialist: Professional Clear Level II:

Flexibility in Dual Induction Programs

The Commission encourages flexibility in dual induction programs and does not require a full two-year induction experience in both general education and special education. The current coordinated pathway should ensure that candidates are not penalized for seeking certification in both areas. Education Specialist candidates seeking both an Education Specialist and Multiple and/or Single Subject Credential, should be able to satisfy their induction requirements through their participation in an approved induction/Beginning Teachers Support and Assessment (BTSA) program. It is the intent of the Commission that an Education Specialist candidate's participation in an approved induction/BTSA program fulfills the non-university activities option for the candidate's Professional Induction Plan. An additional Coded Correspondence will provide more guidance on this topic in the near future.

For additional information, please contact Jan Jones Wadsworth at (916) 323-6091.